



Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University English Preparatory Program

Think-Aloud

SPECIAL ISSUE

GLOBAL ISSUES IN 21ST CENTURY



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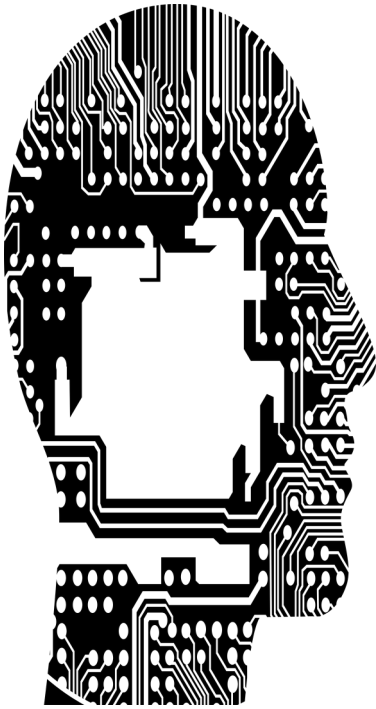
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The Reality Behind Improvement



Do you know how technology will go on affecting your lives in its extremes, or how long it will go on improving? Your probable answer is "until the end." Actually, you are right. Today, a variety of technological tools are being created in large numbers, and their effects on our lives are getting more prevalent. For instance, 'AI' (Artificial Intelligence) is one of the elements, which can be regarded as a fruit of 21st. So, what about the effects? Surely, it will have quite tremendous effects such as replacement of people, loss of skills and too little safety.

Firstly, AI has been a big controversial issue among scientists for the past few years. Will it contribute positively to our society or pose a threat for us?

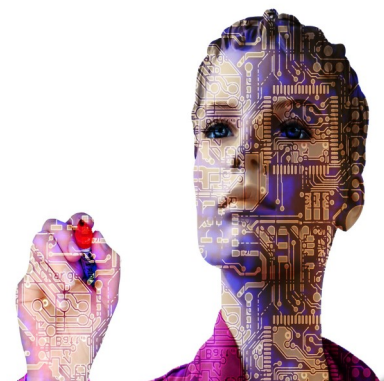
It seems it will only bring harm to our society. For example, the replacement of people can be regarded as one of the biggest harms for the whole of humanity. Moreover, there are predictions supporting that millions of people will be unemployed in the next decades because of AI. It is quite probable to experience it in science, medicine and other kinds of professions. To illustrate, a person who wants to be a translator will not be able to achieve it, no matter how many languages he/she knows because there will be AI interpreters which are able to translate each language even much faster and more accurate than humans. It is obvious that it will end many jobs that humans do today.

Secondly, we are all living in a world of technology. We are largely dependent on it in every field of our lives. However, it is a doubtful question that whether we consider its effects on our individuality or not. Because of AI, people lose more and more skills today, and step by step they become unskilled people. Moreover, these intelligent tools make our lives easier by handling boring tasks that we are supposed to do. So, people are not bothered with them and trust in improved technologies. As a consequence this, loss of skills comes out. Nevertheless, this case shows how humanity is becoming excessively dependent on new technologies.

Thirdly, safety is another most important issue about AI. Today, it is possible to capture and analyse a person's actions or information online. At that point, the privacy of a person poses some risks. On the other hand, some issues also can come out in the information process; some confusions can be experienced while storing it. For example, it can be risky if a tool is not equipped with the same intentions which are supposed to be. Consequently, AI powered machines' effectiveness and efficiency can be lowered or destroyed.

Finally, technology is getting so improved that it is indispensable for running away from it. As AI, there are many other of them. At that point, their effects on us also become inevitable. All we need to do is assess them in a logical way, and take some steps to balance the equation between people and technology.

Ece KARATAŞ



The Education System of Turkey



Education is one of the most important factors for people to be a part of society. The education system in a country reflects the development and modernity of its society. In my country, we use the traditional education system. It is based on teachers and students. I think the traditional education system is better than the other education systems. Also, we try to improve this education system. For example, we use much more technological equipment in every class. In this way, pupils are more interested in lessons so they will succeed. In our education system, teachers try not to be compelling. In addition, students may have the opportunity to go abroad. Everyone tries to support these things. I think our education system has improved itself by following the developments in the world.

In addition to this information, if we talk about our education system, it is divided into some sections. For example, we aim to prepare students for a foreign language in every kindergarten which is the first stage of our education system. Beginning English education in a kindergarten is an indication that we want to improve our education system by bringing it to world standards. In secondary schools alongside the main lessons, there are various social areas that enable young people to develop themselves by directing them to different areas. For example, there are numbers of areas in which students can focus on sports activities or learn a musical instrument. This shows that our education system does not just focused on main courses. In high schools, we aim to move individuals to the upper levels. Today, creating a student community based on generating solutions is one of our goals. During the university education, we prepare our students for the life after school. At this stage, our education system is now aware of preparing students for business life and creating a conscious society. I think our education system gives hope for the future, and we will also have a lot of opportunities in the following days.

Ceyda VARLIK

The Internet

The internet has completely changed our lives. We spend a lot of time using it every day. The internet has a lot of advantages. For example, if you study in a different city, you can contact with your friends or family online. Furthermore, you can see your friends' latest news and photos. If you have homework, you can do research online. You can also have fun, while playing video or computer games. However, the internet has a lot of disadvantages. For example, you do not leave your home due to spending a lot of time on the internet. In addition, some games are dangerous for children and if you use the internet too much, you cannot spend enough time with your family and friends. In conclusion, the internet is important in our lives, but we must manage the time we spend on the internet carefully.

Ayşenur KURT



Outcomes of Extremes

We are experiencing climate change, and no one can reverse it. Almost every day in the news, at school, anywhere we go, we hear about it. We know that weather is becoming more and more extreme, but what are the effects of those heavy rains, snow, and intense heat without any rain? Are we able to survive to see the increasing wildfires, floods, drought, famine, and diseases?

As the climate changes, summers get hotter and winters get colder now. The number of deaths caused by heat waves is estimated to reach 100.000 by 2050 in the United States. People have to stay in their houses not to get sunstroke. Not only do people die, but animals in the forests also have to leave their homes because wildfires do not let them.

Another hazardous effect or extreme temperatures are the lack of clean water sources. Most of the rivers and lakes of middle latitude countries have dried out. As drought is a long-standing extreme event, it considerably jeopardizes people's lives. Nothing can grow in dried soils, so food production comes to an end, and people die of famine. Without water, diseases break out and spread more easily.

While one hemisphere experiences extreme temperatures, the other experiences the exact opposite: extreme colds. It results in big loss and damage. Almost every week, we hear about at least one country which has a coastline with oceans is submerged. China, Vietnam, Japan, and India are affected by the most, floods take hundreds of lives.

Namely, the climate changes. Therefore, extreme events happen every day in different parts of the world. Wildfires, floods, drought, famine, and diseases occur as a result. They pose a big threat to life. Indeed, we know about the outcomes very well. The question is do we care enough about them?

Belgin KOÇAK





Reasons for Environmental Pollution

Environmental pollution has increased by 50% in the last 35 years. The number is getting higher every day, so what is environmental pollution and what results in pollution? Environmental pollution is mostly caused by human activities like using harmful substances including poisonous and usefulness of resources. It is a huge problem for governments. Environmental pollution has many other reasons such as population, urbanization and trashes.

The first reason is the increasing population. It causes immense trouble. More population brings more needs. According to OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development), Turkey is one of the most rapidly populated countries, that is why Turkey probably will face the reality of problems. Also, migration effects population in an adverse way. Unfortunately, it causes pollution. Nations aims to increase the number of people without being aware of the likely consequences.

The second reason is the unplanned urbanization. It brings pollution because it harms to the environment. Unplanned urbanization ruins green-fields. In addition, people are engaged in agriculture to arid land, so chemicals destroy the environment on a large scale. We build skyscrapers everywhere, however, we are not aware that they dig into our sky. We do not let our World breathe. In addition, urbanization brings us too many vehicles. This exhaust is one of the major causes of pollution.

The final reason is disposals produced by industry, construction and other human activities. They are the most treacherous things for the environment. People pollute everywhere such as sea, land, and forest to dispose. Therefore, animals are dying, and forests are burning. Recycling can be a solution for that, and it is too important for Earth. It will save our future. Also, littering can be decreased. In addition, factories are disposing their trash, rubbish and other chemicals to the sea. Those are poisonous and they destroy the sea creatures. This is actually like pointing a gun to your mother; actually, you kill your mother nature.

In conclusion, growing population, unplanned urbanization and disposals are some crucial reasons for environmental pollution. We are not the only one on Earth, but also, we must think of other creatures and the Earth. Polluting will poison us soon. We should stop wrong uses of agriculture, littering, chemicals, and unplanned urbanization.

Tuğba Tuğçe ARTUÇ

Mother Nature and Her Fate

Have you ever considered why our planet is being polluted day by day? We all live in planet Earth, so why is our planet polluted? Environmental pollution is one of the greatest challenges that the world is facing today. It is a global issue we have. As the population increases, pollution increases as well. Factories, cars, buildings and many human-made things cause irreparable damage to our mother nature. They have many negative effects on natural resources that are an absolute need for life, but the most remarkable ones are humans, animals and plants.

The first negative effect of environmental pollution is on humans' health. Human beings are creatures that can be affected by the place where they live. Environmental pollution causes them to have respiratory problems, irritation of eyes, some kinds of cancer, allergies, asthma and so on. Because of factory and exhaust smoke, humans can suffer from lung cancer. Due to pollutants, one can lose his/her eyes, and because of unnecessary loud noise, one can have trouble with his/her ears. There are many other negative outcomes like these.

Another consequence of pollution is that it does not only affect humans but animals' health and habitat as well. Animals facilitate an environment to find their food like humans. For instance, due to oil spills from cargo carrier, many animals like fish and some birds are killed. Dumping solid wastes such as plastic, metallic scrap, garbage can cause animals to get trapped. Acid rain destroys fish life in lakes and streams. The pollution causes damage to animals' organs.

Environmental pollution does not only affect animals and humans, but it has also many negative effects on plants. These results are leaf damage, slower growth, root damage and inability to photosynthesize properly. Furthermore, plants can be damaged by the toxic substances stored in soils and acid rain.

In conclusion, environmental pollution leads to the decline of environmental quality. As you can see, environmental pollution has become a great

matter to save our planet. We need to take various measures to decrease the environmental pollution. These are planting trees, reducing the use of non-renewable resources, proper disposal of wastes. It is the responsibility of every person to save our environment from getting polluted.

İlkay SEZİŞLİ





The Edge Of Hunger

Famine is a very serious threat to people around the world. As most of us have seen on news, the people whose countries are suffering from food shortage die because of hunger, or diseases which accrued due to famine. Therefore, those countries' population has been decreasing. One of the world's biggest issues, famine has some causes such as natural disasters, crop failure, and civil wars.

Many natural disasters hit countries and have major effects. The most common natural disasters that cause famine are droughts, floods, and earthquakes. Since the early years, those natural disasters have made people lives harder, especially those who live in the disaster area. People are unable to grow plants because of low or high rain periods, or destructing the farmlands. As a result, people face the biggest threat, famine.

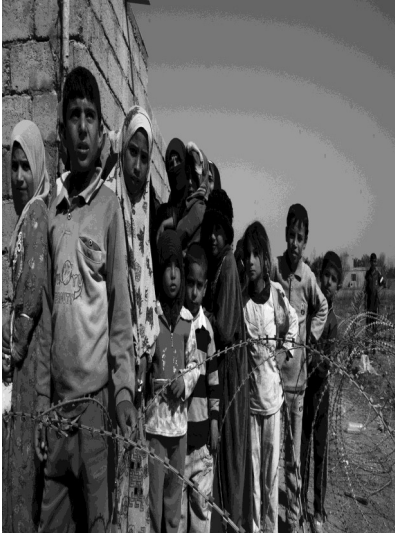
However, causes do not always occur by exterior things. For instance, crop failure is a serious problem that is made by humans. Plants need proper amount, not excessive. If you make overfertilization, your plants can burn, and lose their benefits. Moreover, harvesting without knowing anything can cause to lose the soil's fertility which makes impossible to plant again.

It is not just whether or natural disasters that led to famine, civil wars are also among the causes. From past to present, many countries have suffered from famine due to their dictatorship governments. This has led to strict government rules, protesting, and abandoned fields which stop the manufacturer.

To sum up, famine is a serious and dangerous thing that a country can experience and should be avoided as soon as possible when a country is threatened to famine. It will be a good solution to prevent famine by helping out the countries during its famine with exporting foods and goods, or adopting countries to agriculture, and solving their governmental problems.

Sevde ÖMÜR

RISING DAY BY DAY



Human overpopulation is among the biggest environmental issue around the world. Despite this problem, the population is still rising day by day and whatever the governments do, they cannot avert this problem. Many people are not aware of the effects of overpopulation. We can examine it in three main topics such as unemployment, lack of resources and inadequacy of social services.

Firstly, overpopulation causes unemployment. Since the population rises, people start to look for jobs in order to take care of their families. However, because of overpopulation, there are not enough job opportunities. Due to unemployment, people cannot live on, and thus, fighting in families and divorces occur. Because of lornness, some level differences arise between people who work and people who are unemployed. These differences cause discrimination among people.

Secondly, one of the effects of overpopulation is lacking resources. As the population goes up, the country's sources diminish. Even today, there are few countries that suffer from lack of food and water. People can live without heating or electricity but cannot survive without food and water.

However, food and water are not the only sources that decrease. Our energy sources are going down as the population increases. I believe that after a few generations, most of our sources will be out of stock.

Lastly, inadequacy in social services occurs as a result of overpopulation. For example, in hospitals, there may not be enough doctors or equipment for treatment. People may get sick easily and more often because of overpopulation, and again because of it, they might not get treated well. Another example is education. Teachers may not show enough attention to all the students due to crowdedness or discrimination may occur between students. Either way, it is bad for students.

To sum up, people may not get what they deserve. They may have to live much worse than they imagine. Overpopulation, overall, has three main outcomes such as unemployment, lack of resources and inadequacy of social services. Even if some measurements are taken, this situation cannot be changed totally.

İrem KARDAŞ



What Causes Overpopulation?



Have you ever thought what it is going to cause if the population of the world increases in this rate? Will there be any space for each of us in the future? Overpopulation is one of the most important issues today. Governments try to stop this growth. If the overpopulation is wanted to decrease, the first step is to understand what causes overpopulation. There are three main causes including falling mortality rates, unconscious growth, and migration rates.

Countries all over the world are developing day by day. This process is inevitable for human. Especially, technology is an important part of this process. The invention of vaccines and the discovery of antibiotics cause an immense change in the health sector. With the facilities, it is almost impossible to die of a disease now that caused lots of death centuries ago. People have numerous solutions for each disease except for some types of cancers. Scientific advances help us to overcome diseases. This causes falling of mortality rates. However, death rates are falling while birth is remaining in the constants. This is one of the main causes of overpopulation.

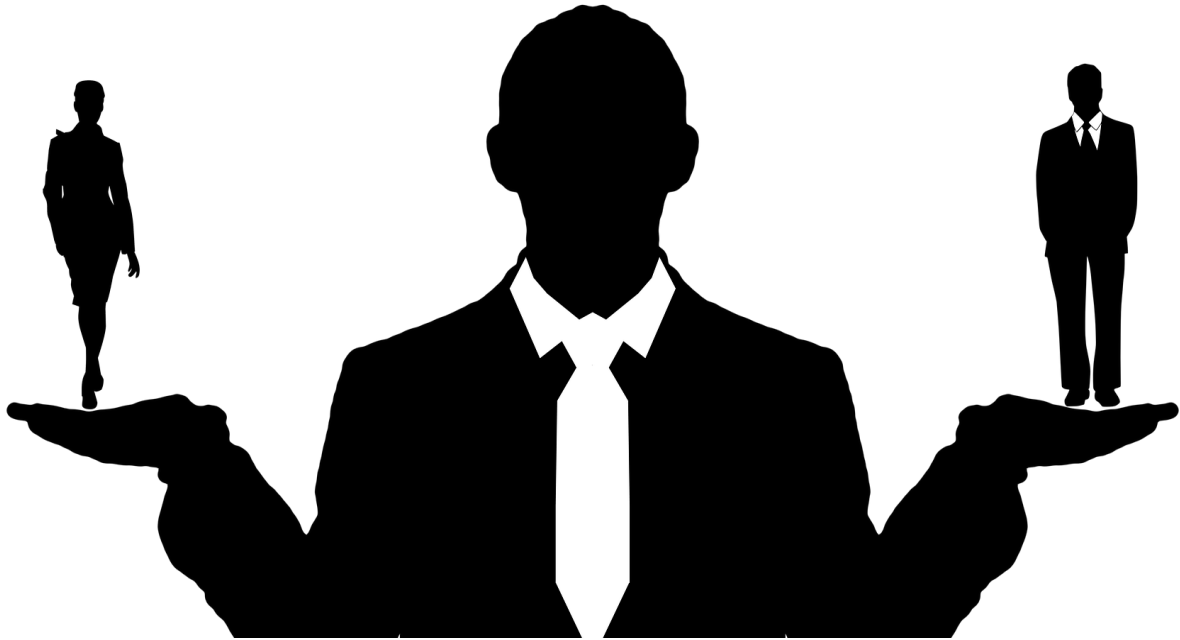
Unconscious growth is the second cause of overpopulation. Parents have an excessive number of children. However, the problem outcomes when they do not have enough money to educate their children appropriately. The children that have uninformed parents are grown with the same opinion and uneducated way. When these children become parents, they treat their children in the same way. This vicious circle causes the uneducated population, especially in undeveloped countries.

History has lots of different migrations from all over the world. Today, migration is a specific way of having better facilities. While some people migrate because they want better education, health-care or job opportunities, others migrate because of obligation caused by wars, lack of water or food supplies. This is the cause of overpopulation, especially in developed countries.

In conclusion, overpopulation is the main problem that we have to stop if we want to hand down a beautiful future for the next generations. To solve a problem, a person needs to recognize the causes of that problem, so we need to understand the causes of overpopulation to solve it. There are three main causes of overpopulation. With the advances in health care, mortality rates are falling day by day. Uninformed families cause unconscious growth with uneducated children. Increasing migration rates, especially in undeveloped countries, are the ones that cause overpopulation.

Müge BOTTAN

The Promised Lifestyle



Even before we are born, somethings are decided for us. Our lives are determined by social issues, and we can advocate ourselves according to laws. Cultures, society, and political issues are the reason why gender discrimination exists.

Culture has a great impact on gender role. Our thoughts, behaviours, and lifestyles change based on how we are grown up. For instance, girls have been often defined as "housewife" or "teacher" while boys are supposed to play "car racing" or "war games".

Generally, girls are taught to lay a table, and boys are not expected to do chores like this. Even if those issues seem to be simple, they influence our role

in life. Gender roles are affected by every aspects of society such as at home, work, and school. These affect how female and male person should think, speak, and dress. People around us assume as though they have all rights to interfere with our lifestyle. Also, we are expected to live based on their attitudes towards life. Unfortunately, those stereotypes lead to gender inequality.

Politics is the destiny of a country. You cannot learn it out of a book; you can learn it by living. Politics controls everything such as how you will take your education and healthcare, how you will have a job opportunity, and even how female and male relations will be. According to the regime, you can have rights. For example, woman

have to take permission from a male guardian in order to marry or divorce in Saudi Arabia. A woman's guardian is her father until she gets married.

When you are born, some decisions are taken on behalf of you. Actually, you live according to aspects of society, culture, and politic. These determine your role in society.

Simge YILMAZ

Gender Equality



If there are people around you who are discriminating against men or women, you are probably exposed to gender inequality. Gender discrimination still continues in many countries today. In this essay, we will talk about why gender equality is necessary.

Firstly, women suffer from gender inequality. It can be seen everywhere, such as work, education, and marriage. Men can also be exposed to such situations, but women are usually the victims of discrimination. They are forced to marry at a young age. They are not sent to school. They are always at the forefront of household chores such as cooking, cleaning, and looking after children. Early marriage is another issue. There are many child brides. Although such inequalities are noticed by everyone, most people still do not do anything.

What should be done to prevent gender discrimination? Women and men should first give up discriminating each other. Both men and women should respect to each other. If you are a woman, you can struggle with eliminating conscious or unconscious obstacles put in front of your opportunity of equality. If you are a man, you can work together with women and girls, and you must behave everyone equally. Gender equality is a necessary condition for both men and women; it is a fundamental right wherever you live.

Broadly speaking, the society with gender equality is a healthier society for individuals of all ages. I think we can achieve this change in inequality starting from ourselves.

Özlem ULUYOL

About Coffee



Have you ever wondered how badly coffee can affect you? More than 50% of the people I know drink coffee. People drink coffee in their working places, schools, restaurants and in their homes. Since there are so many possibilities for coffee consumption, it is not easy to resist. When a person drinks too much coffee, it causes some troubles in a person's life; for instance, it might cause an addiction to caffeine, health issues and insomnia.

To start with, people who drink coffee more than six cups in a day may become addicted to caffeine. Unfortunately, addiction may have some bad consequences such as stress, anxiety, headache and fatigue. Caffeine may show the same effects as drugs. Addictive people may have some symptoms like headaches when they suddenly stop drinking coffee. Also, they might feel furious or stressful, and this may affect their daily life and their behaviours.

Secondly, drinking too much coffee may cause some health problems; for instance, drinking large amounts of coffee may increase the risk of heart-related diseases such as irregular heartbeats, cholesterol and it triggers a heart attack. Furthermore, ex-

cessive coffee consumption during pregnancy may cause miscarrying and premature birth.

Lastly, coffee can damage the digestive system and leads to nausea and ulcer. One last point is that consumption of coffee more than 1000 mg per day may cause insomnia since it stays in the human body for approximately 5 hours. For this reason, it should not be consumed just before bedtime especially by elderly people. It makes it difficult to fall asleep and reduces sleeping time. This leads to tiredness during the day.

As a consequence, however, coffee helps you to stay awake during the day and collect your attention, it may cause some problems to appear such as addiction to caffeine, health issues and insomnia. All these problems affect your daily life in some way in case of excessive consumption. So, you had better be careful about caffeine intake during the day.

İrem KARDAŞ